

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 10**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2004-021**  
**DATE: June 1, 2004 Time: 6:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: **Spring Flooding** induced by heavy rains on near saturated ground.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. DAMAGES: As of today, the NWS reported that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) measurement on Devils Lake at Creel Bay registered a record high stage of 1,448.88 feet. A seven-day forecast was revised at noon to indicate Devils Lake at Creel Bay will rise to 1449 feet by Tuesday, June 8. The State Water Commission (SWC) reported the heaviest rainfall fell south and west of the City of Devils Lake. SWC engineers indicated most of the water will end up in Stump Lake. Approximately four to eight inches of rain fell in Benson, Wells, Foster and Eddy Counties during the past week, primarily since Friday. It is too early at this point for engineers to estimate the impact of rainfall on Stump Lake.

Steady rainfall over the Memorial Day weekend has created flooding problems in at least 11 North Dakota counties. The National Weather Service (NWS) began issuing flood warnings on Saturday, May 29. Flood warnings are currently in effect for areas near the Ludden Dam on the James River in Stutsman County. Area flood warnings remain in effect for Benson, Barnes, Eddy, Griggs, Ramsey, Ransom, Richland, Sargent and Towner counties.

The following is a NWS summary of river levels measured on June 1:

**Red River:**

Fargo --- Flood Stage – 17.0 feet, Current Stage – 18.1 feet

- Expected to crest Thursday or Friday at minor flood stage.

East Grand Forks --- Flood Stage – 28.0 feet, Current Stage 23.0 feet

- Expected to approach minor flood stage next Sunday or Monday.

Oslo --- Flood Stage 28.0 feet, Current Stage 21.8 feet

- Expected to approach minor flood stage next Sunday or Monday.

Pembina --- Flood Stage – 42.0 feet, Current Stage – 25.1 feet

- Expected to approach minor flood stage next Sunday or Monday.

**Wild Rice River:**

Abercrombie --- Flood Stage – 10.0 feet, Current Stage – 12.6 feet

- Expected to crest Wednesday or Thursday at moderate flood stage.

**Pembina River:**

Walhalla --- Flood Stage – 11.0 feet, Current Stage – 13.0 feet

- Expected to crest Tuesday at minor flood stage then slowly fall.

Neché --- Flood Stage – 18.0 feet, Current Stage – 9.0 feet

- Expected to rise above flood stage on Wednesday.

**Sheyenne River:**

Valley City --- Flood Stage – 13.0 feet, Current Stage – 7.8 feet

- Expected to remain below flood stage.

Lisbon --- Flood Stage – 11.0 feet, Current Stage – 4.6 feet

- Expected to approach flood stage Friday or Saturday.

West Fargo Diversion --- Flood Stage – 16.5 feet, Current Stage – 9.7 feet

- Expected to approach flood stage by next Monday.

**Park River:**

Grafton --- Flood Stage – 12.0 feet, Current Stage – 8.5 feet

- Expected to crest at minor flood stage late Tuesday.

Widespread rainfall ranging from two to seven inches has fallen over the past three days with water covering many county and tribal roads and flooding low-lying cropland. The following is a summary of damages to counties impacted by the recent rainfall:

**Three Affiliated Tribes:**

Heavy rainfall has washed gravel from tribal roads, making travel hazardous. Tribal officials are concerned about transporting dialysis treatments. The Tribal Road Department and law enforcement are monitoring road conditions.

**Benson County:**

County and township roads are soft, saturated and rutted due to ground saturation and rainfall in excess of five inches across the county. The City of Brinsmade has reported six inches of rain. One rural private driveway has become inundated, isolating the residence. The City of Minnewaukan and the City of Leeds are reporting trouble with lift stations due to heavy rains and runoff. Leeds and Minnewaukan residents are being asked to limit sewer system use. Residents throughout the county are reporting water in basements and sewer system back up due to heavy runoff from saturated ground. The Benson County Road Department and township officials continue to flag and close unsafe and inundated roads. City employees are pumping sewer systems to aid lift station capacity. Benson County has received five to six inches of rain countywide.

**Eddy County:**

Rainfall accumulations of four to six inches have inundated township and county roads. Heavy runoff has caused erosion to road surfaces and shoulders, and has weakened roadbeds. The Eddy County Road Department is flagging unsafe and inundated roads. Damage reports continue to come in from New Rockford residents, who report water in their basements as a result of the rainfall.

**Foster County:**

On Tuesday, June 1, the county Emergency Manager reported flooding due to accumulated rainfall over the last four days. Water over the roadway has been reported in numerous locations and several reports of water in residential basements have been received. The City of Carrington reported a precipitation total of four inches, with the City of McHenry reporting a total of 5.17 inches.

**Griggs County:**

The county Emergency Manager reported the City of Cooperstown lost its lift station when it became overloaded because of heavy rain. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will provide assistance with additional pumps.

The North Dakota State Farm Service Agency Office has issued a preliminary report indicating the following Griggs County crop losses due to the May 29-31 rainfall event: Wheat = 10% loss; Soybeans = 9% loss; Sunflower = 9% loss; Edible beans = 9% loss; Corn = 6% loss.

**Mountrail County:**

Precipitation accumulations measuring three to six inches occurred over the May 29-31 period. The county Emergency Manager reports farmland, as well as county and township roads, completely saturated, bringing agricultural activity to a standstill. Some roadways have become impassible due to erosion and softening of the roadbed.

**Pembina County:**

The Emergency Manager reported significant precipitation this past weekend. Township roads are soft and water is pooling in the ditches and fields. Numerous homes have sump pumps running and there is basement seepage occurring. The following rainfall amounts have been reported from May 29 to present: Walhalla - 1.69 inches; Pembina - 2.25 inches; Drayton - 1.76 inches; Edinburg area - 1.96 inches; Cavalier - 1.43 inches. Previously flood-damaged township roads that had started to dry out enough for repair work are now saturated again. In the Cavalier area, a weather observer reported that the total precipitation for May was 4.94 inches, which is 2.57 inches above normal.

**Ramsey County:**

The NWS in Grand Forks reported three to five inches of rain across the Devils Lake Basin this past Memorial Day weekend. The county Emergency Manager indicated people in the area are reporting water problems in their homes. There is a continuing problem of eroding shorelines and water inundated roads. The Woods-Rutten Road is impassable as of June 1. Thousands of acres of farmland have flooded and water storage areas are well out of their banks. Coulee flows are approaching high cubic feet per second (cfs) levels throughout the basin. The Devils Lake Outlet to Stump Lake is now running at 180 cfs. Officials are monitoring the water level at the Devils

Lake city dike, which is within one foot of the dike protection level of 1,450 feet, with seven feet of freeboard.

**Richland County:**

Water levels in the Wild Rice and Red Rivers continue to rise due to runoff from the rainfall accumulations, which began May 29. The Wild Rice River has overflowed its banks and is flooding fields. Roadside ditches are full of water and overland flooding is requiring road closures. There have been five bridge closures and three road closures in Richland County as of May 31. The City of Abercrombie has received 7.5 inches of rain since the evening of Saturday, May 29, 2004.

**Sargent County:**

Reports of agricultural crop losses in low-lying areas range from five to 20 percent. Minor damage has been reported to soft road surfaces due to water saturation. One home received water in the basement.

**Steele County:**

Steele County Emergency Management reported three to five inches of rain across the county over the last three days with minor flooding. Damages included collapsed culverts and small washouts with minor flooding on township roads, as well as some residential damage.

**Stutsman County:**

Heavy rain falling on Saturday, May 29, and continuing through Monday, May 31, deposited a combined total of 3.5 inches of rain in Jamestown. Areas south of Jamestown received more rain. At this time, only one report of basement water damage has been received. Water is eroding the shoulders of township roads and a 100 foot tree fell, blocking a township road near the City of Windsor. A number of township roads in extreme southern Stutsman County are underwater and have been closed. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) are considering reducing the releases from both Pipestem and Jamestown Dams to minimize the possibility of contributing to the flooding situation. Currently, the Jamestown Dam is releasing approximately 455 cubic feet per second (cfs) and Pipestem Dam is releasing 15 cfs for a combined total of 470 cfs.

**Walsh County:**

Rain accumulations that began on Saturday, May 29, and continuing have measured 1.5 to 2.5 inches throughout the county. Damages reported include saturated road beds, crop loss, and more delays in planting. The Walsh County Extension Agent estimates that six to seven percent of the crop acres in the county have not been planted. Additionally, he estimates that three to four percent of the low lying acres seeded will be lost.

The Walsh County Highway Department has identified damage to two structures, which most likely were suffered initial damage during the March flood and have now failed due to rain saturation. Road closures due to a collapsed bridge on County Road 19A and embankment erosion to a bridge approach northwest of Grafton are a result of the three-day rain event. Road conditions throughout the county continue to be monitored as all roads are heavily saturated. The county is anticipating more damage as heavier equipment begins to move over these roadways.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Numerous flagging of roads and road closures are taking place throughout the affected counties and the Three Affiliated Tribes reservation due to washouts and water over roadways. USACE provided a pump to assist lift station capacity in the City of Cooperstown

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No changes from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No changes from previous reports.

9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director